



BDDS

HEADLINES

A Publication from the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services, Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services

September 2004

From the Desk....

of Carmela Barrett-Officer, Deputy Director

Choice

The question of choice is raised by individuals, families and providers on a daily basis. All of us who serve individuals with disabilities struggle to define choice in our day to day work. What I would like us to keep in mind is how we as providers approach our own choices and where those choices come from, such as the ones that make a home a home.

Our choices are often governed by our finances, our experiences, our supports and our abilities. At any given point in life, circumstances enhance or limit our choice. So, as creative people, we find ways to improvise and move on.

The same can happen when supporting individuals with disabilities.

For example, an individual wants to have an apartment so that she can live alone. At this time, she does not have the resources to afford a single bedroom apartment.

She, with the support of the team, needs to complete the PCP to show the steps to work toward that goal.

In the meantime, she will need to live with housemates and work toward that goal: job, full time employment, benefit protection and earned income incentive savings, etc.

There are some basic choices which we sometimes overlook, which are very important in making a home a home for the individual.

Think about the following as we go about the day, working with and for individuals living

within the community.

- Does the individual have their own door key or some other way to access his/her own home, or does staff always unlock the door for the individual?
- Does the individual have the opportunity to open his/her own mail, and does the mail arrive in his/her own name?
- Does the individual have an opportunity to set up his/her own doctors' appointments or social appointments?
- Does the individual have a choice about the adaptive equipment needed or does the individual have it because the team wants or needs to use it?
- Does the individual answer the phone and when they do, can they just say hello and wait for a response?
- Does the individual have his/her own identification on his/her person at all times, or does the individual rely on staff to identify who he/she is?

Please take a minute to reflect upon these areas and many others before engaging in the next PCP meeting and make changes when appropriate.

Case Management System Status

DDARS posted a Request for Information (RFI) through the Department of Administration.

The primary objective for this RFI was to solicit feedback from a variety of respondents – including case managers, other service providers, the individuals who are eligible for developmental disabilities services, and family members – that will assist DDARS in designing and implementing the most efficient case management delivery system possible.

We received 102 responses from our community partners and the responses are being reviewed and ana-

lyzed.

In addition, in June 2004, DDARS conducted a survey of existing case managers through the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community (IIDC).

Two rounds of the Case Manager Surveys have been completed, generating 566 responses.

The Bureau of Developmental Disabilities is currently reviewing and analyzing these responses and will use them to determine appropriate qualifications and required training for case managers.

THE NEXT PROVIDER

ORIENTATION

SESSION IS ON

SEPTEMBER 29,

2004, COVERING

THE SUBMISSION OF

NON-WRITTEN

SERVICE

PROPOSALS

Status of provider orientation session and proposals

First Orientation a success

On June 30, BDDS hosted the first Provider Orientation Session.

Sixty-four provider representatives attended the session, hearing from members of BDDS, OMPP, EDS and BAIHS.

The prospective providers learned how to submit a written service proposal for providing services to individuals eligible for developmental disabilities services.

A submitted proposal, when approved, will allow a provider to offer Developmental Disabilities Services, funded either from waiver supports or state line item and Title XX supports.

As a result of the Orientation, the Bureau received three proposals. Review of the proposals has begun and decisions on the proposals will be communicated to the applicants within the 60-day period.

The second Provider Orientation Session, covering the submission of non-written service proposals, is on September 29, 2004 in the Auditorium of the Indiana Government

Center South from 9:00 – 4:00. Following the orientation, provider proposals must be received by BDDS no later than October 31, 2004.

This orientation is for any prospective applicant that wishes to apply for recognition as a provider of Developmental Disabilities Services. In order for the provider to submit a proposal, one representative of the provider must attend the Orientation Session. Registration is required.

Call Pearl Faust at (317) 233-4848 to make reservations.

The third Provider Orientation Session, covering written service proposals, will be on December 15, 2004. (Provider Orientation Sessions are scheduled for the third month of each quarter of the calendar year. A list of the services that require written and non-written proposals can be found on-line at: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/servicedisabl/provider/providerapproval.html>). This list of services is contained in the letter from Juman Bruce dated 6/9/04, .

Community Response Center

BDDS Helpline expanding

The BDDS Helpline has proven to be an effective method of communicating to the citizens of Indiana and providers of BDDS services. Due to this success, DDARS is expanding the Helpline.

Following a competitive bidding process, Technology Partnership Group, an Indiana company, was awarded the contract to develop a DDARS Helpline to address the questions and concerns regarding several of the DDARS Bureaus, including Bureau of Aging and In Home Services, Bureau of Blind and Visually Impaired Services, Bureau of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Bureau of Quality Im-

provement Services.

The DDARS Helpline will be fully operational within the next month.

The BDDS Helpline will be incorporated into the DDARS Helpline.

During the past 6 months, over 2,500 inquiries have been received. Each inquiry receives a notification of the receipt of the inquiry and the response from BDDS is sent as soon as possible. The average response has taken only 4.5 days.

The announcement of the DDARS Helpline activation will be made through Bulletins and through each Bureau. You may continue to contact the BDDS helpline at bddshelp@fssa.state.in.us.

MATRIX

Many of you may be familiar with the MATRIX project. This project will revolutionize the way we distribute funding to support individuals with disabilities. The premise is that each individual's funding should be based upon an independent assessment of that individual's needs using a systematic tool.

Beyond merely measuring IQ, this tool will take into account the varied challenges an individual faces and the many different supports to which an individual has access.

Once the tool is applied, a score will be generated and a level of funding will be attached to that score.

The funding will include residential supports (if needed), day service supports (if needed), infrastructure, and case management.

The Bureau of Developmental Disabilities, the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning and other stakeholders continue to meet to discuss this project.

A great deal of energy has been focused upon a means by which to assess all individuals that would be translated into financial support for an individual receiving those services.

In this way, the individual will have more flexibility in choosing the service(s) and the intensity of service(s).

This flexibility is in addition to the individual being able to choose their service providers.

We are currently working to schedule a pilot of this project.

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Move from MSDC worth it

Sonny had lived at Muscatatuck State Developmental Center since 1970. According to his mother, he had a good life there and was well cared for by the staff. Sonny visited with family both on campus and at home. He was safe, healthy and enjoyed the beautiful surroundings.

When the family learned of the intent to close Muscatatuck they were apprehensive of what may happen. Earlier this year, the family learned of another man seeking community living. The two families met and knew immediately that the two men would make great housemates. They were actively involved in the transition, selection and planning with the new residential provider and the waiver case manager.

This spring, Sonny and his housemate moved into their own home.

The adjustment was challenging for Sonny, his family and direct support staff. However, within two months, Sonny sat down at the dining room table with his family. He showed his skills of eating comfortably with a fork. He initiated getting his own drink from the refrigera-

tor. He was relaxed and able to enjoy his family's visits in his own home. These are new developments in his living style. He is so comfortable and proud of his home.

Sonny's home is complete with a glider swing and a rock garden. He even helps with the ice cream and bread machines.

Sonny has good doctors and a supportive team encouraging his independence and growth. The family is very happy with the new opportunities for Sonny.

This summer, Sonny fell and broke his ankle. The family is so appreciative that Sonny had the supports in place to address the fall immediately.

Sonny's mother praised the staff and doctors for being "right on top of the situation." She is confident that the immediate response eliminated many problems.

Sonny's mother continues to do everything she can to keep Sonny's support staff. She knows that he is doing so well because of the support team. They care about him and are there for him.

Regional Human Rights Committee

The Regional Human Rights Committee is beginning to receive and review submissions of Behavioral Support Plans (BSP) from providers across the state.

This Regional Human Rights Committee, located at Muscatatuck State Developmental Center, has received inquiries from one provider regarding 4 individual's BSPs since July 1, 2004.

Close monitoring of the impact of MSDC staff is occurring. More submissions are anticipated.

Cost Effectiveness

We continue to work with our community partners to ensure the Developmental Disabilities Waiver is cost effective for each of the individuals we serve.

Preliminary results indicate that we will be cost effective for the waiver year ending September 30, 2004 but we are fast approaching the ceiling for aggregate cost effectiveness.

We will continue to communicate with our individuals, families, and the provider community as we work on this important issue.



BDDS Newsletter is published quarterly.
Any comments or story suggestions can be sent to BDDS Helpline – bddshelp@fssa.in.
Subject line: BDDS Newsletter

For more information about BDDS services, log on to:
www.in.gov/fssa/servicedisabl/